

## 1. Welcome to Troop 325's Merit Badge Midway



### Communications Merit Badge

REQUIREMENTS were REWRITTEN completely, effective January 1, 2004.

Study merit badge booklet. Prepare for **1c** and **2b**, write speech for **3**, interview for **4**, attend meeting for **5**, do **7(a, b, or c)**, and **8**. There are a number of requirements that cannot be completed at the Midway. In order to be able to complete the badge that day, please read over the following requirements and do the necessary prerequisites. If you are not prepared, you will not be able to complete the badge that day, and we will have to schedule a follow-up meeting or two.

1. Do ONE of the following: **We will do "c" at the Midway. Have an event in mind.**
  - a. For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to your teachers or the radio, watching television, reading books, and other print media, and communicating online. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communications skills.
  - b. For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences. Identify one example of each of the following, and discuss with your counselor when you have listened to:
    1. Obtain information
    2. A persuasive argument
    3. Appreciate or enjoy something
    4. Understand someone's feelings
  - c. In a small-group setting, meet with other scouts or with friends. Have them share personal stories about significant events in their lives that affected them in some way. Take note of how each scout participates in the group discussion and how effective each one is in telling his story. Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.
  - d. List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by

telephone, letter, e-mail, fax). For each type of communication discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.

2. Do ONE of the following: **We will do "b" at the Midway. Bring your sales plan.**
  - a. Think of a creative way to describe yourself, using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a song or skit. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.
  - b. Choose a concept, product, or service in which you have great confidence. Build a sales plan based on its good points. Try to persuade the counselor to agree with, use, or buy your concept, product or service. After your sales talk, discuss with your counselor how persuasive you were.
3. **Write a speech ahead of time, to give at the Midway.** Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group.
4. **Interview someone ahead of time; we will give the introductions at the Midway.** Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak.
5. **Attend the meeting before the Midway; bring any handouts from it; be prepared to discuss.** Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue. Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view. Present an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor.

**Suggestions:**

- San Jose City Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, see <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.htm>
- Saratoga City Council 1st and 3rd Wednesday, see <http://www.saratoga.ca.us/meeting.htm>
- Campbell City Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, see <http://www.ci.campbell.ca.us/cityservices/mgrclerkcouncil/citycouncil.htm>
- City of San Jose, Master Calendar: <http://mastercalendar.sanjoseca.gov/MasterCalendar.aspx>

6. **Bring your teaching plan and teaching aids or props, to teach another scout at the Midway.** With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something. Prepare teaching aids for your plan. Carry out your plan. With your counselor, determine whether the person has learned what you intended.
7. Do ONE of the following: **Do your choice before the Midway; bring a copy to show.**
  - a. Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose. Send your message by fax, email or regular mail.

- b. Create a web page for your scout troop, school, or other organization. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other web page that would be helpful to someone who visits the web page you have created. It is not necessary to post your web page to the internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.
  - c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier or other printed material for your scout troop, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.
8. **Bring a copy of the program and a note from your Scoutmaster or ASPL stating you have done this.** Plan a troop court of honor or campfire program. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.
9. **Think of a career in communications and find out what preparation it requires; we will discuss it at the Midway.** Learn about opportunities in the field of communication. Choose one career in which you are interested and discuss with your counselor the major responsibilities of that position and the qualifications, education, and preparation it requires.

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